

various local governments and local stakeholders are willing and able to use incentives and interdiction measures without being encumbered by the gridlock resulting from federal listing, to increase the Mexican gray wolf population to levels in both states that, coupled with conservation efforts in Mexico, would establish and maintain a rangewide population of Mexican gray wolves that is self-sustaining and managed at levels sufficient to meet scientifically-valid population objectives. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports and endorses immediate delisting of gray wolves in the WAFWA member states from the ESA, either through legislative or administrative means, and that this species be managed by the respective State wildlife agencies.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to have joined my colleagues in introducing legislation that would delist the gray wolf from endangered species status thereby returning wolf population management to the respective State wildlife agencies. As my colleagues know, Federal efforts to recover the gray wolf and related subspecies are controversial throughout the West and Midwest including my home State of Arizona.

Officially listed in 1974, the gray wolf was among the first animals protected under the Endangered Species Act. At that time, gray wolves were undoubtedly a broken species, hunted to near extinction by western pioneers. But in the 1990s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service launched an ambitious wolf re-population effort in several States where wolves had been eradicated. Federal biologists released dozens of wolf breeding pairs into parts of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho as well as Arizona and New Mexico in the hopes that these so-called experimental populations would reestablish their historic ranges.

In the northern Rocky Mountains, these efforts largely paid off in 2002 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it achieved its population goal of 30 breeding pairs and 300 wolves in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. In fact, the Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Program was so successful at breeding pups that by 2005 they reached 49 breeding pairs and 663 total wolves. Today those numbers stand at over 71 breeding pairs and about 1,700 total wolves, far surpassing the stated goals of the Federal Government's wolf recovery plan. Despite this remarkable comeback, several environmentalist groups have used the judicial process to keep gray wolf populations under various forms of Federal protection, even to the detriment of native deer and elk populations which are dropping dramatically because of so many predator wolves. By keeping wolves locked into federally protected status, State wildlife authorities are legally prevented from rightfully controlling their exploding wolf population. At the same time the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is forced to overextend its resources, reach and welcome on a program that achieved its goals almost a decade ago. This simply cannot continue.

With respect to Arizona, my support for delisting the gray wolf is not a mandate for wolf hunts but rather to establish a path forward for saving the Mexican gray wolf from a failed Federal recovery program and to provide essential protections for livestock growers. If you compare the success of the northern Rockies against the dismal returns of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program in Arizona and New Mexico, you see how Federal mismanagement and judicial activism have combined to hurt both ranchers and wolves. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service introduced 13 wolves in 1998 and estimated that the Southwest should have 100 wolves by now but in fact we have barely topped 42 wolves over the past 12 years. Pup survival in Arizona and New Mexico remains bleak with 31 observed in 2009 but only 7 surviving the winter. Livestock depredations remain a constant concern even though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently rescinded rules that allow ranchers to protect their cattle for depredation. To date, the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program has cost taxpayers roughly \$20 million or roughly \$500,000 per wolf with no end in sight. By removing Federal protections for the Mexican gray wolf, management and recovery responsibilities would be transferred from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the State's wildlife authority, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, which recently voted to support this proposal.

The facts on the ground paint a clear picture that it is time to return management and recovery of these wolf populations to the States. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, UCWIP. For more than a decade, this international internship program has been enabling outstanding Australian college students to participate in internships throughout the U.S. Congress.

Students participating in the program obtain immeasurable experience through their congressional internships, and participants also have the opportunity to participate in other educational experiences, including U.S. historic site and government agency visits and other learning events. I am proud to be involved in this rewarding and well-rounded exchange program, and I am grateful for the contribution Uni-Capitol Washington Programme interns continue to make in providing valuable viewpoints and helping me serve Idaho constituents.

Gemma Whiting, a UCWIP participant, has joined my staff as an intern this semester. She is studying law/arts at the University of Western Australia, where she is majoring in political science and international relations.

Gemma has spent many hours helping keep my schedule and activities running smoothly, and she has been an immense asset. Her commitment and hard work are appreciated, and we are fortunate to have Gemma as a part of the team. I asked her to share her impressions regarding the program and her internship. She said, "It was an honor to be a part of UCWIP 2011. The opportunity to work in Senator CRAPO's office has been the most remarkable experience. I could not have hoped for a more welcoming and affable office. The insight gained through this opportunity is invaluable, adding a higher level of understanding to the intricate workings of the U.S. Congress and the world's foremost democracy. This internship has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, adding priceless knowledge to my studies in Law and Political Science. I could not have had a more enjoyable or memorable experience thanks to Senator CRAPO's office."

I also commend the efforts of the program's director and founder, Eric Federling, who has utilized his own Capitol Hill and Australia experiences to provide this important exchange opportunity that benefits both Australian students and congressional offices. His interest and skill have been instrumental in shaping an outstanding program.

I look forward to continuing my association with the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, which I have been honored to be involved with for 5 years. I commend Gemma Whiting, Eric Federling and the other Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme participants and interns for contributing to the 12 successful years of this important program that facilitates the valuable broadening of relationships and understanding between our two countries.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ABILITYONE PROGRAM AND THE ARC OF CADDY-BOSSIER

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I recognize a program which in the last several years has helped more than 45,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment, the AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program is the single largest source of jobs for Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities. The program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills, training, good wages, benefits, while providing greater independence and quality of life.

I am especially proud to acknowledge that the AbilityOne Program is affiliated with the Arc of Caddo-Bossier in Shreveport, LA.

The history of the Arc of Caddo-Bossier represents a true example of what it means to grow and help people with disabilities to become an active and contributing part of society. The Arc of Caddo-Bossier was founded in 1954 by a small group of parents with a mission to promote the growth of their children by developing programs and services to meet their needs. In 1996, the Arc of Caddo-Bossier Foundation was established to further promote community involvement and programs for people with mental disabilities. Today, the Arc of Caddo-Bossier still remains committed to their unique mission to help the needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

It is with great pleasure that I first extend my support to the AbilityOne Program. Secondly, I commend the dedication and commitment of the Arc of Caddo-Bossier executive director, Janet Parker, and her staff for helping individuals who have a disability find employment. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of their community. I also commend each AbilityOne employee who works every day to improve their lives and make our country a better place to live.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT CONCERNING THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON MEASURES FOR THE FURTHER REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, SIGNED IN PRAGUE ON APRIL 8, 2010 (THE "NEW START TREATY")—PM 4

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Senate of the United States:

I have considered the United States Senate's December 22, 2010, Resolution of Advice and Consent to Ratification of the Treaty between the United

States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Prague on April 8, 2010, with Protocol, including Annexes (the "New START Treaty"; Treaty Document 111-5), and I hereby certify that:

1. United States National Technical Means, in conjunction with the verification activities provided for in the New START Treaty, are sufficient to ensure effective monitoring of Russian compliance with the provisions of the New START Treaty and timely warning of any Russian preparation to break out of the limits in Article II of the New START Treaty.

2. The New START Treaty does not require, at any point during which it will be in force, the United States to provide to the Russian Federation telemetric information under Article IX of the New START Treaty, Part Seven of the Protocol, and the Annex on Telemetric Information to the Protocol for the launch of (a) any missile defense interceptor, as defined in paragraph 44 of Part One of the Protocol to the New START Treaty; (b) any satellite launches, missile defense sensor targets, and missile defense intercept targets, the launch of which uses the first stage of an existing type of United States intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) or submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) listed in paragraph 8 of Article III of the New START Treaty; or (c) any missile described in clause (a) of paragraph 7 of Article III of the New START Treaty.

3. I intend to (a) modernize or replace the triad of strategic nuclear delivery systems: a heavy bomber and air-launched cruise missile, an ICBM, and a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) and SLBM; and (b) maintain the United States rocket motor industrial base.

4. (a) The United States will seek to initiate, following consultation with NATO Allies but not later than 1 year after the entry into force of the New START Treaty, negotiations with the Russian Federation on an agreement to address the disparity between the non-strategic (tactical) nuclear weapons stockpiles of the Russian Federation and of the United States and to secure and reduce tactical nuclear weapons in a verifiable manner; and (b) it is the policy of the United States that such negotiations shall not include defensive missile systems.

5. I intend to (a) accelerate, to the extent possible, the design and engineering phase of the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) building and the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF); and (b) request full funding, including on a multi-year basis as appropriate, for the CMRR building and the UPF upon completion of the design and engineering phase for such facilities.

6. It is the policy of the United States to continue development and deployment of United States missile de-

fense systems to defend against missile threats from nations such as North Korea and Iran, including qualitative and quantitative improvements to such systems. As stated in the resolution, such systems include all phases of the Phased Adaptive Approach to missile defenses in Europe, the modernization of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense system, and the continued development of the two-stage Ground-Based Interceptor as a technological and strategic hedge. As I stated in my letter to the Senate of December 18, 2010, the United States believes that these systems do not and will not threaten the strategic balance with the Russian Federation. Consequently, while the United States cannot circumscribe the sovereign rights of the Russian Federation under paragraph 3 of Article XIV of the Treaty, the United States believes continued improvement and deployment of United States missile defense systems do not constitute a basis for questioning the effectiveness and viability of the Treaty, and therefore would not give rise to circumstances justifying the withdrawal of the Russian Federation from the Treaty.

The report called for in the sixth Condition of the Resolution will be provided under separate cover to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Relations.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 2, 2011.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-405. A communication from the Director of Human Capital and Resource Management performing the duties of the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a list of controlled merchandise items; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-406. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Non-American Fisheries Act Crab Vessels Harvesting Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA155) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-407. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Direct Investment Surveys: BE-11, Annual Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad" (RIN0691-AA74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-408. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Direct Investment Surveys: BE-577, Quarterly Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad—Direct Transactions of U.S. Reporter with Foreign Affiliate" (RIN0691-AA75) received in